

# KEYS TO SAFE CROSSING



I SEE THEM AND THEY SEE ME



BEWARE OF THE HIDDEN VEHICLE



PRESS FOR ENOUGH TIME



BY RUSHING WHEN CROSSING YOU MAY NOT BE SEEN



THE PEDESTRIAN PAYS THE BIGGEST PRICE



DON'T CROSS UNTIL THE CAR STOPS



A SIMPLE GLANCE GIVES YOU A CHANCE



## IT'S UP TO YOU TO CROSS ALIVE



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# TEACH THEM FOR LIFE

IT'S UP TO  
YOU TO



**A PARENT'S GUIDE FOR TALKING WITH KIDS  
ABOUT PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN CROSSWALKS**



## Lights and Crosswalks Won't Make You Safe

### ASK YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER:

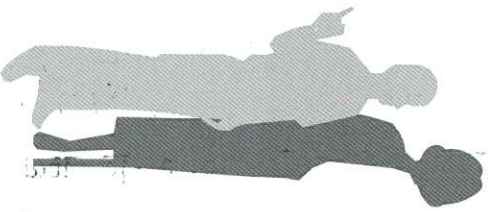
● **WHAT AGE GROUP IS INVOLVED IN MOST AUTO-PEDESTRIAN COLLISIONS?** Ages 10-18.

● **WHY DO KIDS FEEL SAFE IN A CROSSWALK?** They believe cars will stop for them just because they are in a crosswalk.

● **WHY DO YOU STILL NEED TO WATCH OUT FOR CARS WHEN YOU ARE CROSSING IN A CROSSWALK, WITH A CROSSING GUARD, OR AT A TRAFFIC LIGHT?** Drivers of cars may not see you.

● **WHAT ARE SOME REASONS DRIVERS MAY NOT SEE YOU?**

1. Drivers have blind spots that make it hard for them to see you while they are turning.
2. Drivers can be blinded by the sun in the daytime and by headlights at night. They cannot always see clearly when there is rain, fog or snow. Vehicles can skid in icy weather conditions.
3. There may be moving vehicles on the other side of the car that has stopped for you. These are called *hidden vehicles*. The drivers of these cars cannot see you and you may not see them. Always look again when you pass the car that has stopped for you.
4. Drivers do not always pay attention to people in crosswalks. A driver impaired by alcohol or drugs may not see you.
5. Drivers can be distracted by many things including traffic, cell phones, kids in the car, and music. Can you think of other distractions?
6. When it is dark, drivers cannot see pedestrians who are wearing dark clothing.



● **WHAT IS THE MOST COMMON PHRASE THE DRIVER SAYS AFTER AN AUTO-PEDESTRIAN COLLISION?** "I didn't see them!"

● **WHY SHOULD PEDESTRIANS PUSH THE CROSSWALK BUTTON?** It activates the pedestrian signal. In most intersections it extends the traffic light to give the pedestrian enough time to cross.

● **WHY SHOULD YOU CROSS ONLY WHEN THE PEDESTRIAN OR WALK SYMBOL IS ON?** When the pedestrian signal is on, most other traffic lights are put on hold. Even if the walk symbol gives you clearance to proceed, watch for cars that may run red lights or are making turns.

● **WHAT IS THE DANGER IN CROSSING A CROSSWALK ON ROLLERBLADES, SCOOTERS, BICYCLES, OR SKATEBOARDS?** You are moving fast and drivers may not see you in time.

● **HOW DO YOU KNOW IF A DRIVER SEES YOU?** Make eye contact with them. You see them and they see you.

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### PARENTS:

◆ **Remember the example you set.** Children will do what you do. If you follow safety rules, they will.

◆ **Avoid stopping on or near a crosswalk when loading or unloading passengers.** Your vehicle blocks the vision of other drivers and pedestrians using the crosswalk. Generally, it's safer to park beyond the crosswalk to load or unload passengers. Don't be the reason a pedestrian cannot be seen.

◆ **As a driver, resist the temptation to motion to a pedestrian to cross the street unless you are sure it is completely safe.** Drivers in cars coming up beside you may not see the pedestrian you have stopped for.

◆ **Make eye contact with pedestrians before they cross.**

◆ **Generally, children under ten cannot tell how fast cars are approaching.** They may step in front of a fast vehicle.

◆ **Teach children to use crosswalks.** Don't encourage them to jaywalk to reach you. What will they do when you are not there?

**TEACH THEM FOR LIFE!**